

US Army Corps of Engineers

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: JCB-960004842

EVALUATOR: Ms. Joyce C. Butler

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DATE: March 16, 2004

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District is considering an application for a Department of the Army permit for the work described herein.

EXPIRATION DATE: April 5, 2004

<u>Law Requiring a Permit</u>: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), which applies to structures or work in navigable waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:

Mr. Tony Barnes Director of Facilities Boomtown Bossier Casino Hotel 300 Riverside Drive Bossier City, Louisiana 71171

Name of Agent:

Ms. Anna Schoonover Solutions, Incorporated Post Office Box 820127 Vicksburg, Mississippi 39182

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 32, T18N-R13W, latitude 32°30'41.6798", longitude 93°43'51.5606", within the Red River Drainage Basin, Bossier Parish, in Bossier City, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a modification to the previously issued Department of the Army permit to construct a riverboat entertainment complex. The original permit (Permit No. 960004840) was issued to Casino Magic, Incorporated and was subsequently transferred to the applicant. The applicant proposes to permanently moor a landing/transition barge between the left descending bank of the Red River and the existing gaming vessel. The barge would house an entertainment area and two sets of escalators, along with other facilities. The escalators would provide access for casino patrons to all three levels of the

existing vessel as a replacement for the existing single-level entrance. The additional barge would be 297 feet long and 54 feet wide and would be moored to the existing piling system. No new permanent structures or attachments would be required. The proposed landing/transition barge would reposition the existing vessel approximately 60 feet riverward of her present location.

The proposed permanent mooring of an additional barge in waters of the United States requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Bossier Parish listed in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

<u>Flood Plain</u>: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and advice this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

<u>Evaluation Factors</u>: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected

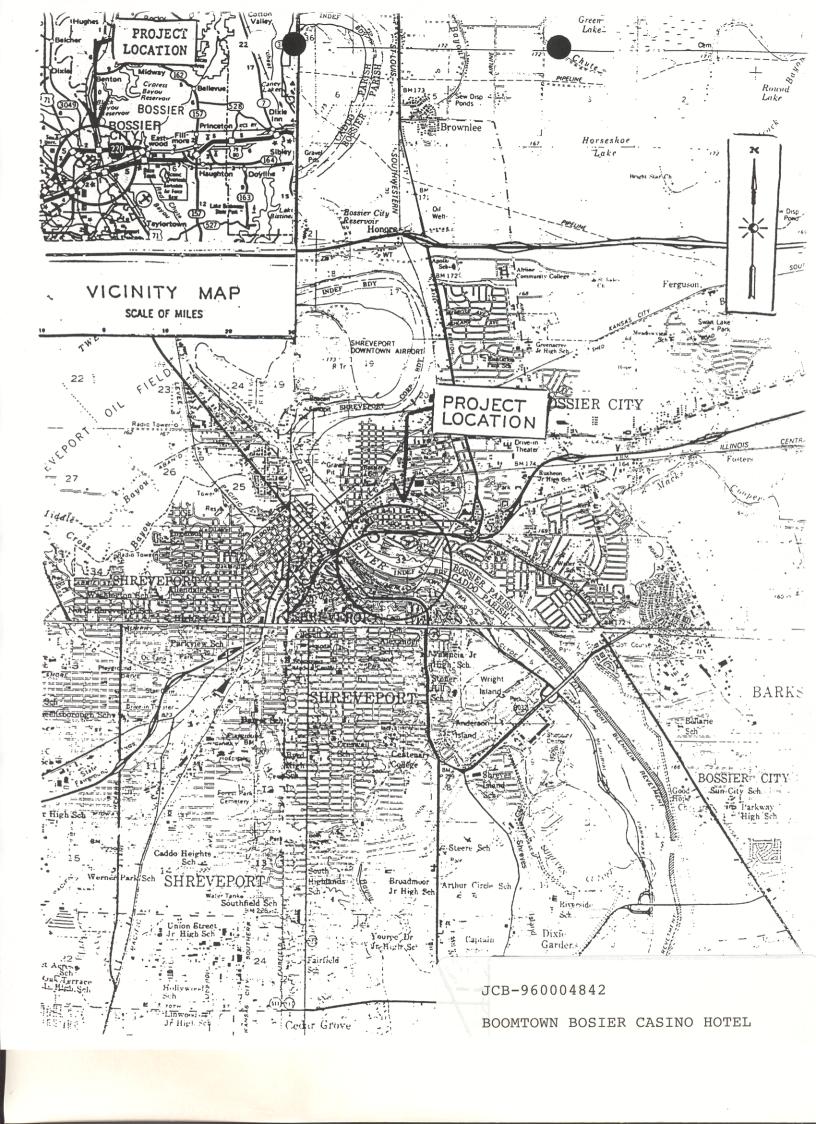
adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

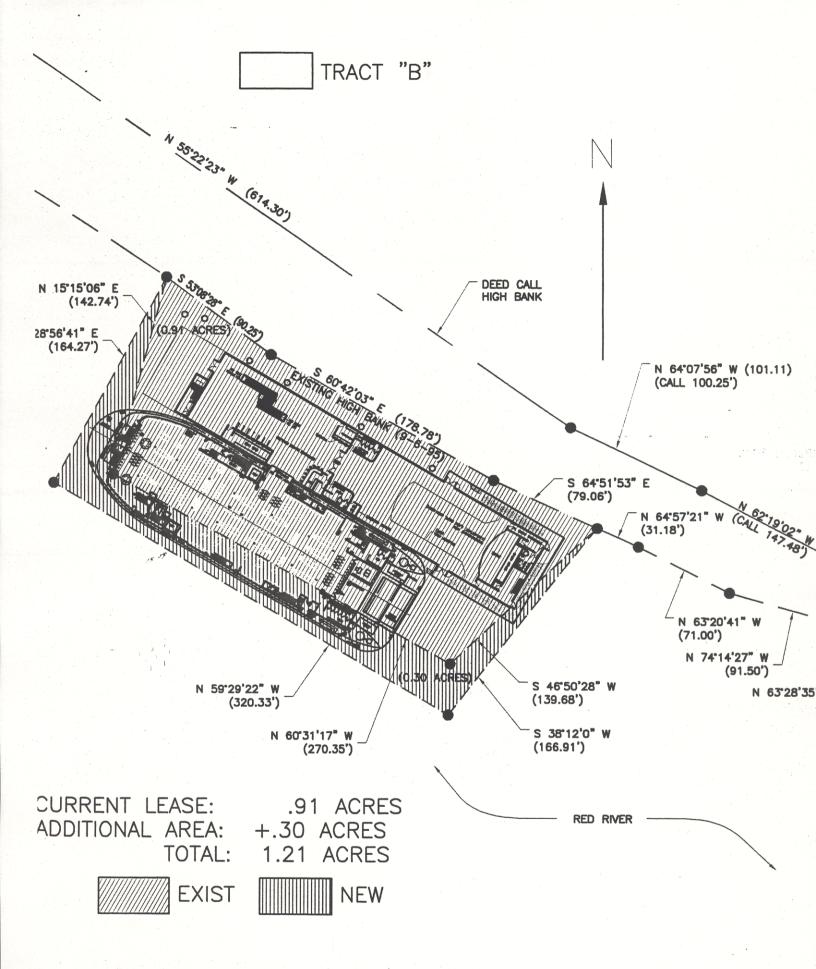
<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp.

W. Harold Lee
Team Leader, Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch





JCB-960004842 BOOMTOWN BOSIER CASINO HOTEL